Misuse of funds by Oil Companies

MO. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pointed out glaring misuse of funds and irregularities in accounts by the Ministry and State-owned Oil Companies in the last ten financial years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether action is proposed to be taken against those responsible for misuse of funds and irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) conducts annual audit of all Ministries/Departments of the Government as well as of the Public Sector Undertakings. In its Reports pertaining to the last ten years, the CAG in his annual audit observations has pointed out certain instances of infructuous project expenditures, idling of assets, delays in recovery of dues, inadequate contract management, etc., by the State-owned Oil Companies. Action has been taken by the Ministry as well as by the State-owned Oil Companies to settle these audit observations in consultation with the CAG. Based on these audit observations, the State-owned Oil Companies also take up remedial and corrective measures to bring about improvement in the existing systems and procedures as well as action against erring personnel, wherever considered necessary.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

*76. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to come out with a five-year incentive package for airline opeators that link metros with regional centres;

(b) if so, whether he declared that incentives would be in the form of waiver of certain airport user, parking, route navigation and landing charges;

(c) whether the Ministry urged the States to identify airstrips that are not in use and develop them through public-private participation;

(d) whether the Ministry identified 35 non-metro airports for develpment, and Planning Commission has approved 10 airports; and

(e) if so, by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Civil Aviation has no plan at present to introduce five year incentive package for airline operators to? linking metro with regional centres.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) had requested respective State Government to take up developed non-operational airstrip/airports belonging to AAI for development purpose. Except Government of Maharashtra, no other State Government has come forward to take over non-operational airstrips of AAI for development and operationalisation of same in their state.

(d) and (e) The Committee on Infrastructure has approved the development of 35 non-metro airports for completion by 2010.

Irrigation proposals received from Andhra Pradesh

77. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to the Central Government meant for irrigation clearance during the last two years;

(b) the details of proposals/projects approved or cleared by various authorities of Government;

(c) the details of proposals/projects pending for clearance in various departments in the Central Government; and

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) During the last two years eight irrigation/multipurpose project proposals have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for techno-economic appraisal as detailed in the enclosed statement I. *(See* below).

(b) During the last two years, the Planning Commission accorded investment clearance for four irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh as detailed in the enclosed Statement II. (See below).